



Application of covariance matrix in TMD effects

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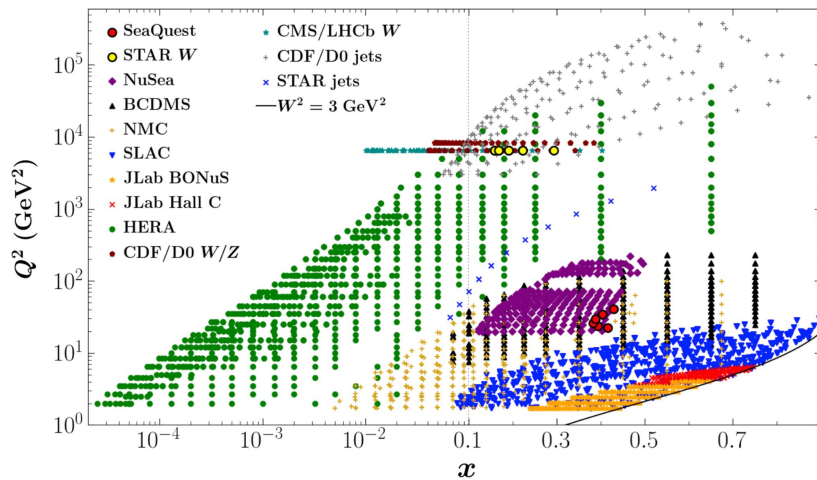
26th International
Symposium on Spin Physics

A Century of Spin

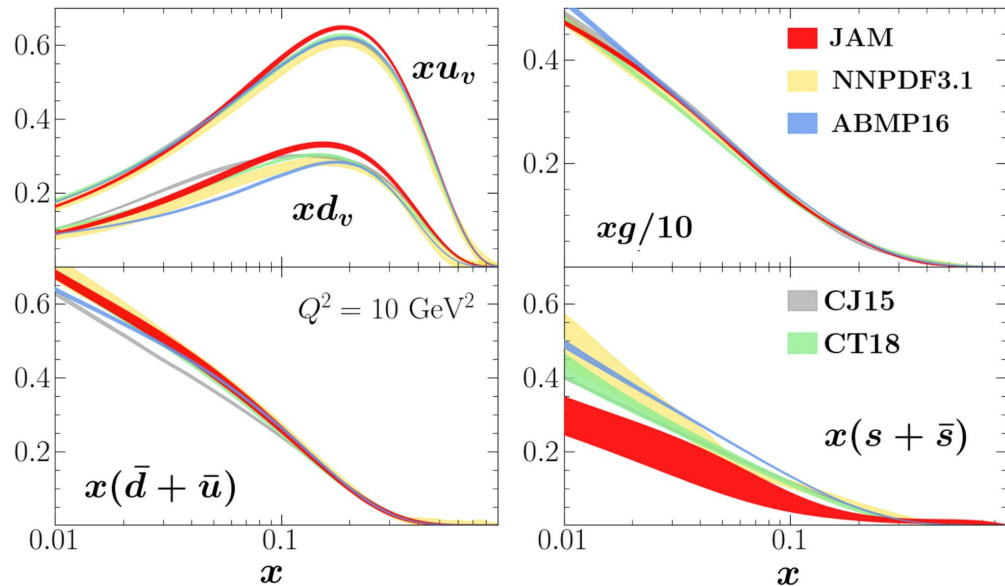
SPIN 2025, Sep 23, 2025

Collinear structures

Most well-known are the collinear parton distribution functions (PDFs)

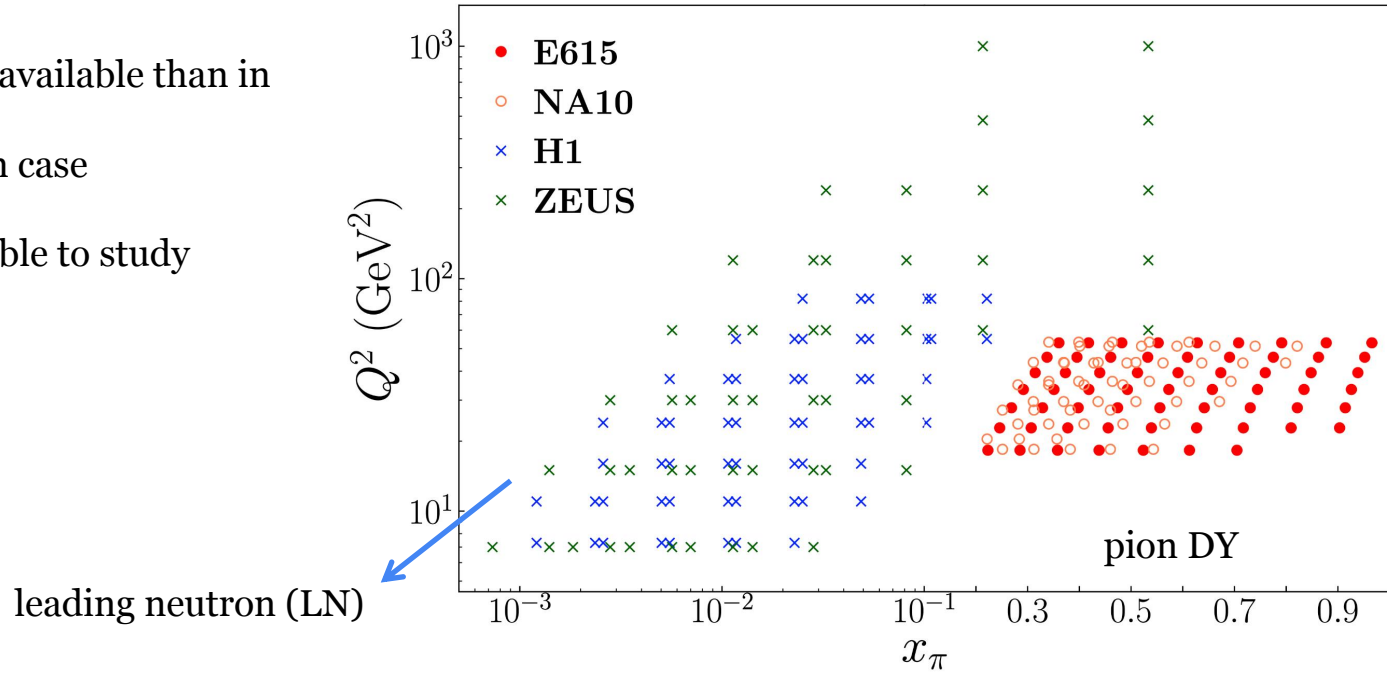


Cocuzza et al: [2109.00677](#)



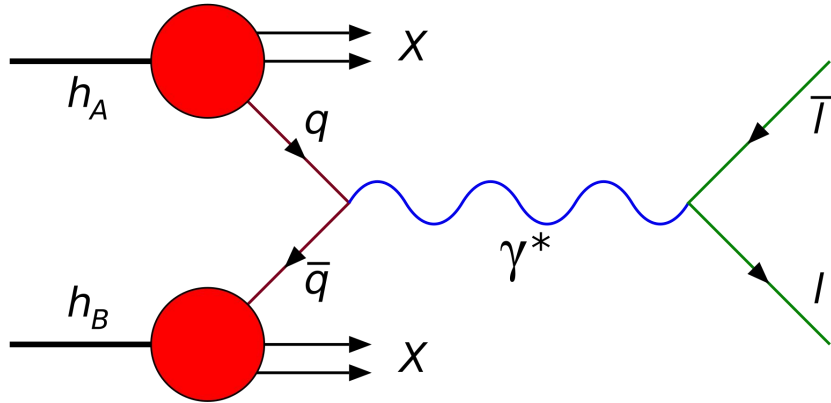
Datasets for studying pion structures

- Less data available than in the proton case
- Still valuable to study

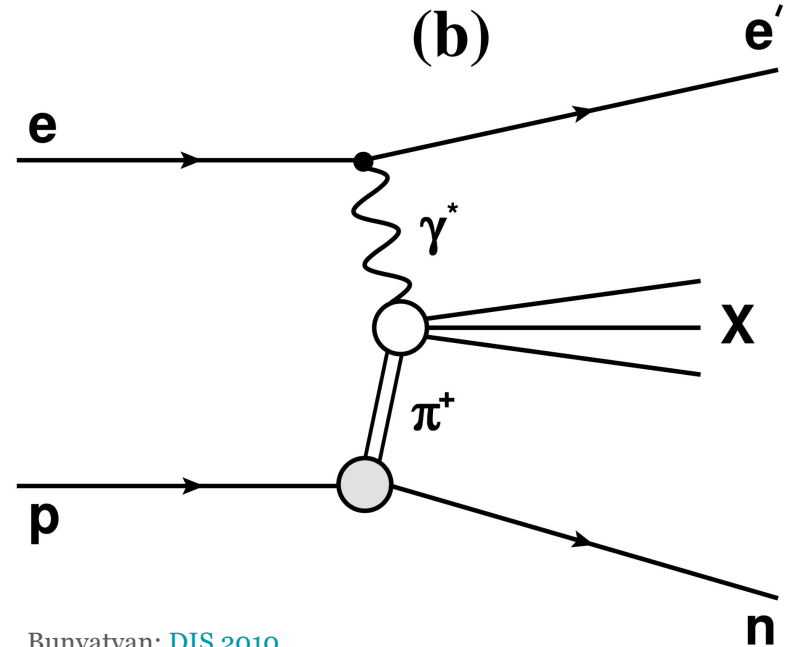


Processes to study pion structure

- Drell-Yan (DY) and leading neutron(LN)



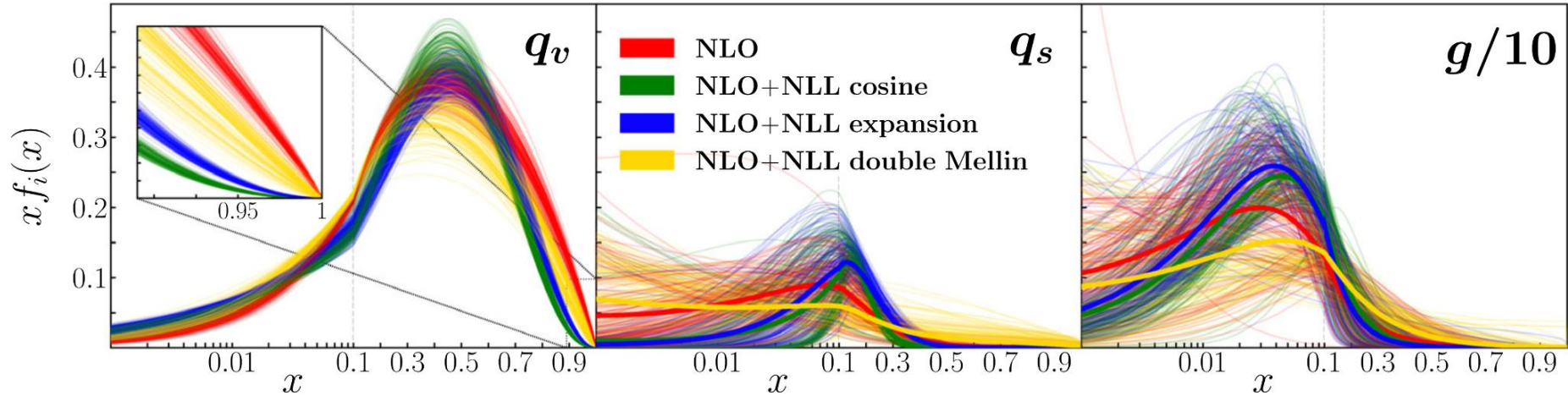
[Wikipedia](#)



Bunyatyan: [DIS 2010](#)

Collinear pion PDFs

- Collinear pion PDFs are analyzed for valence, sea quarks and gluon



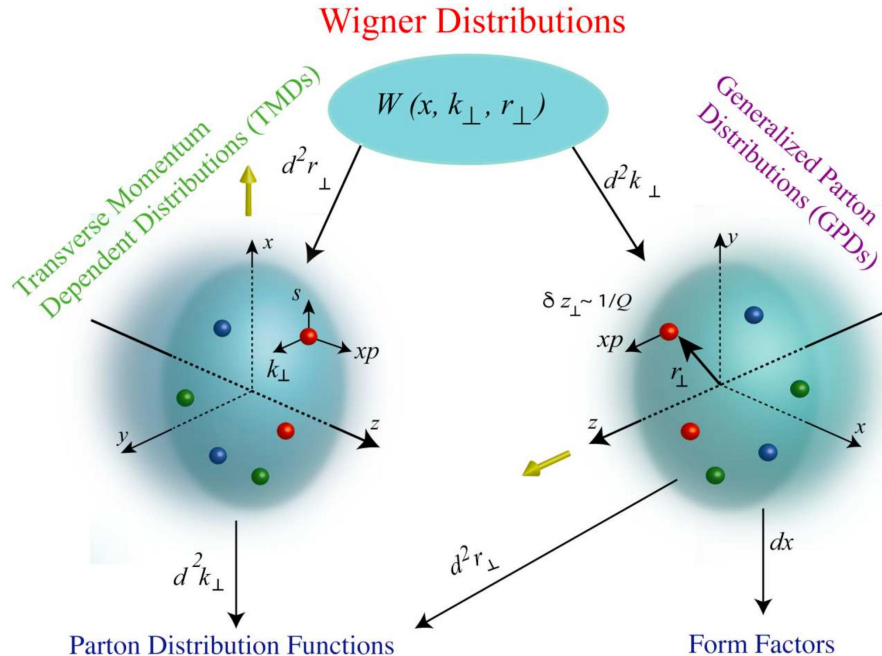
Barry, Ji, Sato & Melnitchouk: [2108.05822](#)

Structures in the transverse direction

- TMD (transverse momentum dependent) distributions
- GPDs (generalized parton distributions)

TMD Handbook

A modern introduction to the physics of
Transverse Momentum Dependent distributions



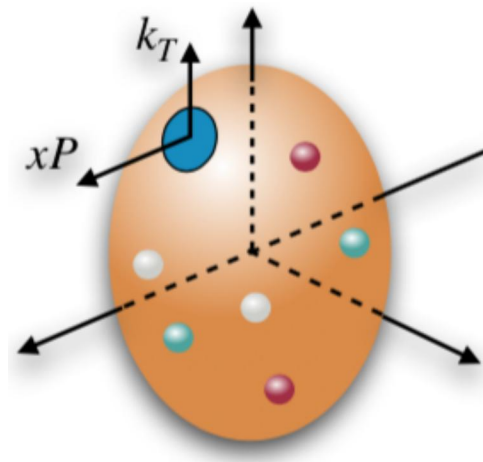
Renaud Boussarie
Matthias Burkardt
Martha Constantinou
William Detmold
Markus Ebert
Michael Engelhardt
Sean Fleming
Leonard Gamberg
Xiangdong Ji
Zhong-Bo Kang
Christopher Lee
Keh-Fei Liu
Simonetta Liuti
Thomas Mehen *
Andreas Metz
John Negele
Daniel Pitonyak
Alexei Prokudin
Jian-Wei Qiu
Abha Rajan
Marc Schlegel
Phiala Shanahan
Peter Schweitzer
Iain W. Stewart *
Andrey Tarasov
Raju Venugopalan
Ivan Vitev
Feng Yuan
Yong Zhao

* - Editors

3D structure in momentum space

TMD (transverse momentum dependent) distributions:

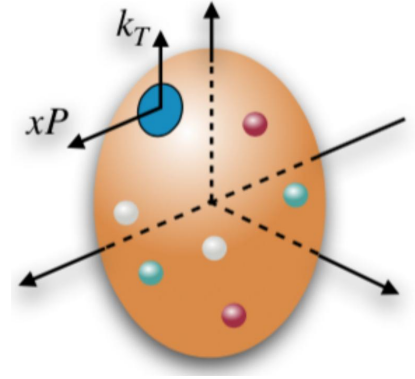
- longitudinal momentum fraction
- transverse momentum k_T of partons in the hadron



3D structure in momentum space

TMD (transverse momentum dependent) distributions:

- longitudinal momentum fraction
- transverse momentum k_T of quarks in the hadron
- b_T is Fourier conjugate to the intrinsic transverse momentum k_T
- one can learn about coordinate space correlation of quarks



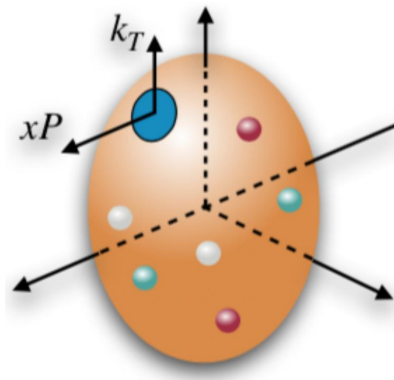
$$\tilde{f}_{q/\mathcal{N}}(x, b_T) = \int \frac{db^-}{4\pi} e^{-ixP^+b^-} \text{Tr} \left(\langle \mathcal{N} | \bar{\psi}_q(b) \gamma^+ \mathcal{W}(b, 0) \psi_q(0) | \mathcal{N} \rangle \right)$$

Factorization of low- q_T Drell-Yan

The Drell-Yan q_T -dependent cross section can be factorized in the low q_T region into:

- Hard part H that describes partonic scattering amplitude
- TMD distributions that describe the structures of pion and proton/nucleus

$$\frac{d^3\sigma}{d\tau dy dq_T^2} = \frac{4\pi^2\alpha^2}{9\tau s^2} \sum_q H_{q\bar{q}}^{\text{DY}}(Q^2, \mu) \int d^2\mathbf{b}_T e^{i\mathbf{b}_T \cdot \mathbf{q}_T} \tilde{f}_{q/\pi}(x_\pi, b_T, \mu, Q^2) \tilde{f}_{q/A}(x_A, b_T, \mu, Q^2)$$



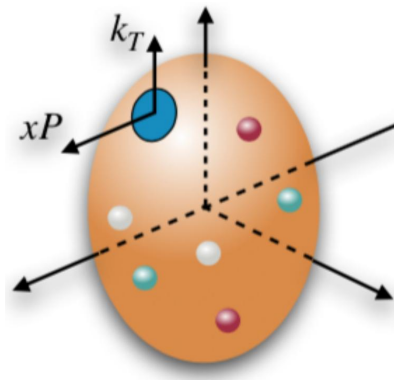
TMD PDFs with the b_* prescription

b_* prescription is applied to smoothly join low and high b_T regions

$$b_* \equiv b_T / \sqrt{1 + b_T^2 / b_{\text{max}}^2}$$

- $g_{q/N}$: intrinsic non-perturbative structure of the TMD
- g_K : universal non-perturbative Collins-Soper kernel
- S_{pert} : perturbative evolution of the TMD

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{f}_{q/N}(x, b_T, \mu = Q, Q^2) &= (C \otimes f)_{q/N}(x, b_*) \\ &\times \exp\left(-g_{q/N}(x, b_T) - g_K(b_T) \ln\left(\frac{Q}{Q_0}\right) - S_{\text{pert.}}(b_*, Q_0, Q, \mu = Q)\right) \end{aligned}$$



Nuclear TMD correction: previous approach

We model the nuclear TMD PDFs as:

$$\tilde{f}_{q/A}(x, b_T, \mu, \zeta) = \frac{Z}{A} \tilde{f}_{q/p/A}(x, b_T, \mu, \zeta) + \frac{A-Z}{A} \tilde{f}_{q/n/A}(x, b_T, \mu, \zeta)$$

And further modify the $g_{q/N/A}$ as [Alrashed et al: [2107.12401](#)]:

$$g_{q/\mathcal{N}/A} = g_{q/\mathcal{N}} \left(1 + a_N \left(A^{1/3} - 1 \right) \right)$$

We have also assumed/used:

- Bound protons and neutrons follow TMD factorization
- Isospin symmetry so that $u/p/A \leftrightarrow d/n/A$

Nuclear TMD correction: new approach

We still model the nuclear TMD PDFs as:

$$\tilde{f}_{q/A}(x, b_T, \mu, \zeta) = \frac{Z}{A} \tilde{f}_{q/p/A}(x, b_T, \mu, \zeta) + \frac{A-Z}{A} \tilde{f}_{q/n/A}(x, b_T, \mu, \zeta)$$

We now introduce the nuclear covariance matrix:

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{N_{\text{rep.}}}} \Delta_{i,n} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N_{\text{rep.}}}} (T_{i,n}^{\text{nuc.}} - T_{i,n}^{\text{vac.}})$$

number of replicas

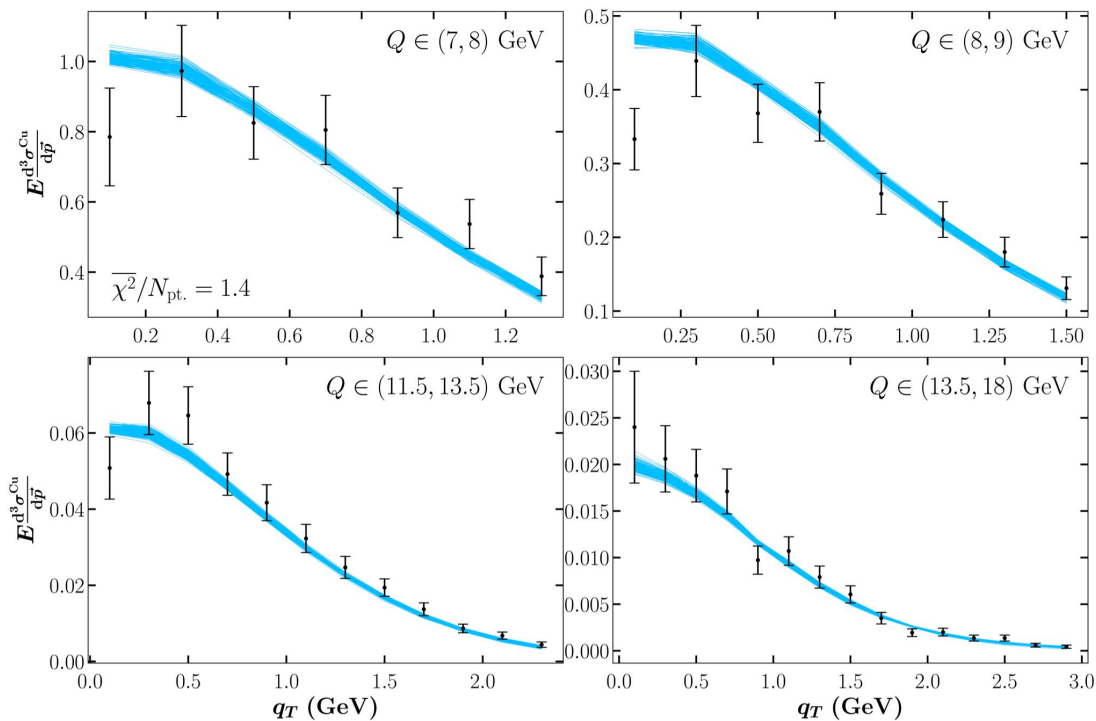
theory value **with** nuclear TMD NP kernel

theory value **without** nuclear TMD NP kernel

All data points are connected, across different datasets!

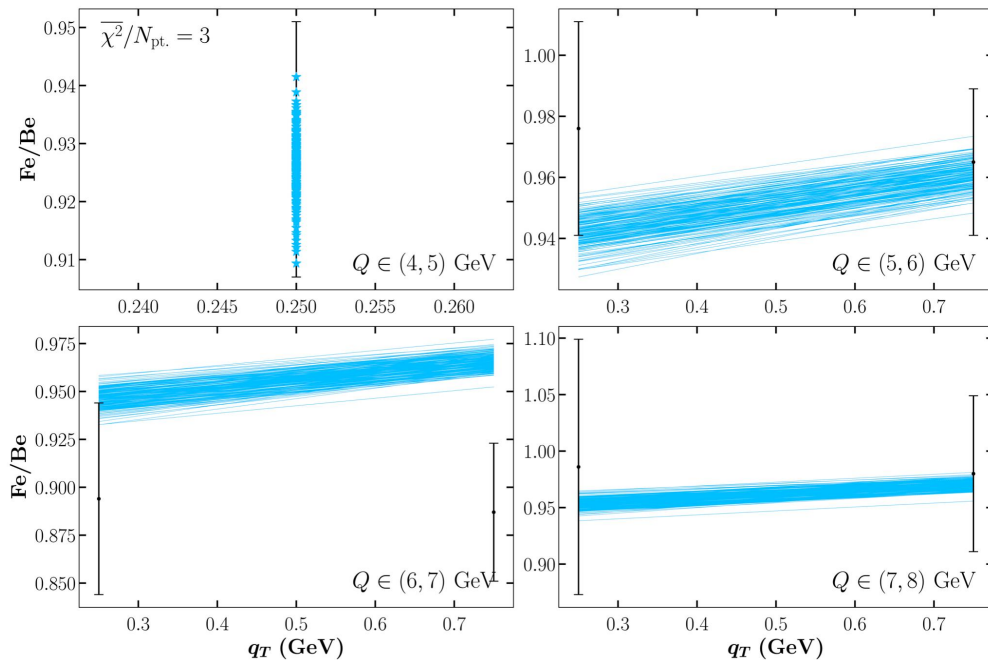
Data-theory agreement

dataset	N_{pt}	χ^2/N_{pt}
E288 (pPt)	30	1.5
E288 (pPt)	39	1.1
E288 (pPt)	62	0.9
E605 (pCu)	42	1.4
E772 (pD)	51	2.6
E866 (Fe/Be)	7	3.0
E866 (W/Be)	7	2.9
E615 (π W)	40	1.6
E537 (π W)	27	1.3
total	1370	0.90



Data-theory agreement

dataset	N_{pt}	χ^2/N_{pt}
E288 (pPt)	30	1.5
E288 (pPt)	39	1.1
E288 (pPt)	62	0.9
E605 (pCu)	42	1.4
E772 (pD)	51	2.6
E866 (Fe/Be)	7	3.0
E866 (W/Be)	7	2.9
E615 (π W)	40	1.6
E537 (π W)	27	1.3
total	305	1.6



Description is **actually good**, large χ^2 comes from penalty terms that connect data points across datasets

Data-theory agreement: compare to baseline

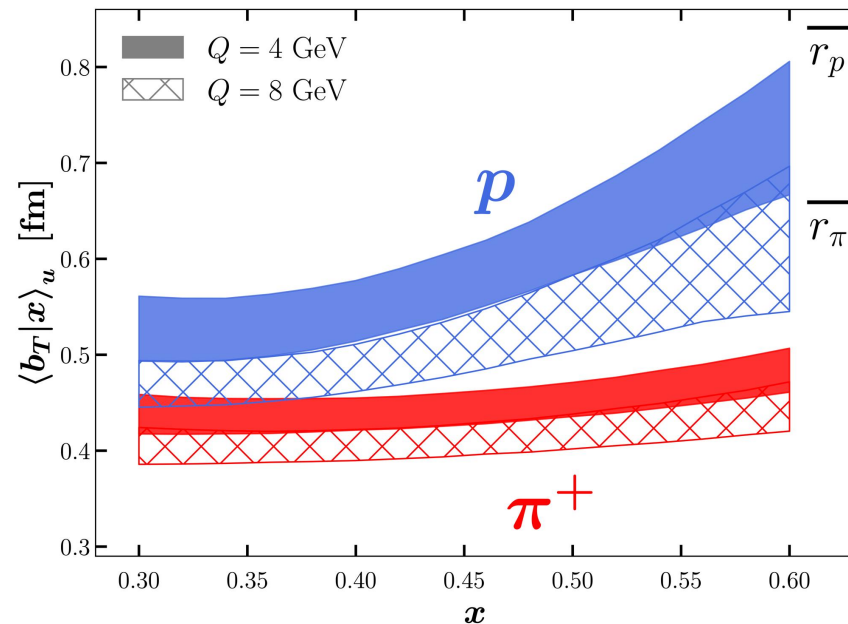
dataset	N_{pt}	χ^2/N_{pt} (baseline)	χ^2/N_{pt}
E288 ($p\text{Pt}$)	30	1.1	1.5
E288 ($p\text{Pt}$)	39	1.0	1.1
E288 ($p\text{Pt}$)	62	0.8	0.9
E605 ($p\text{Cu}$)	42	1.2	1.4
E772 ($p\text{D}$)	51	2.5	2.6
E866 (Fe/Be)	7	1.1	3.0
E866 (W/Be)	7	1.0	2.9
E615 (πW)	40	1.4	1.6
E537 (πW)	27	1.0	1.3
total	305	1.3	1.6

Average b_T as a function of x

$$\tilde{f}_{q/\mathcal{N}}(b_T|x; Q, Q^2) \equiv \frac{\tilde{f}_{q/\mathcal{N}}(x, b_T; Q, Q^2)}{\int d^2\mathbf{b}_T \tilde{f}_{q/\mathcal{N}}(x, b_T; Q, Q^2)}$$

$$\langle b_T|x \rangle_{q/\mathcal{N}} = \int d^2\mathbf{b}_T b_T \tilde{f}_{q/\mathcal{N}}(b_T|x; Q, Q^2),$$

- Nominal charge radius from PDG are marked
- As $x \rightarrow 1$, transverse motion phase space becomes narrower, hence b_T increases
- As Q increases, more gluons are radiated and k_T becomes larger, hence b_T decreases

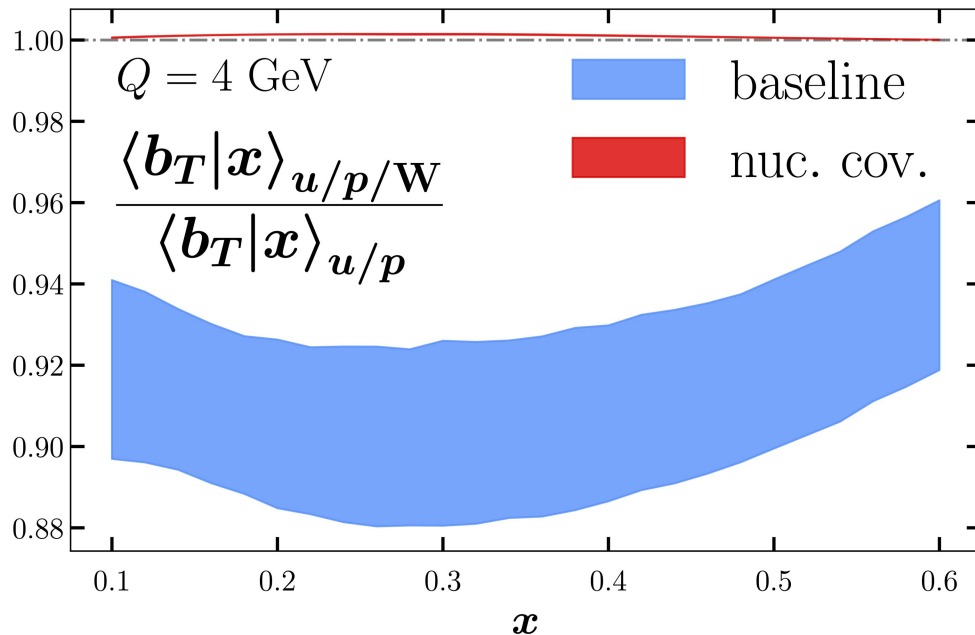


Nuclear modified average b_T as a function of x

$$\tilde{f}_{q/N}(b_T|x; Q, Q^2) \equiv \frac{\tilde{f}_{q/N}(x, b_T; Q, Q^2)}{\int d^2\mathbf{b}_T \tilde{f}_{q/N}(x, b_T; Q, Q^2)}$$

$$\langle b_T|x \rangle_{q/N} = \int d^2\mathbf{b}_T b_T \tilde{f}_{q/N}(b_T|x; Q, Q^2),$$

- Broadening of k_T (hence smaller b_T) is observed in baseline
- With nuclear covariance matrix, no suppression is observed and uncertainty is vanishing ($a_N = 0$)



Summary

- We have explored a new approach for quantifying nuclear correction in TMD PDFs
- Studying the TMD distributions in pion is as important as studying the proton
- In the future, lattice datasets can be included in the analysis
- Future tagged experiments at EIC, JLab 22 GeV and AMBER at CERN can provide flavor separation

Thank you for your attention!